Vol. VIII. Numb. 98

THE OBSERVATOR.

On a Letter complaining of the miſerable Condition of the Poor, becauſe of the high Price of Bread. On the Practices of Foreſtallers and Regraters in Northamptonſhire. *and how treated by the Mob. On the inſolent Practices of the high-flying Faction, and ſome ſeditious Lines in* Parker's Ephemeris. *On a Hymn ſung in a Church at* Northampton, *and play'd to on a Flagellet by a Prebend's Son there.*

From Wednesday, January 4. to Saturday, January 7. 1709.

Country-m. HERE's a rueful Letter, Maſter, complaining of the great Price of Bread, which is already come to 22 *d.* the Half-peck Loaf, and the Bakers threaten to raiſe it to 2 *s.* notwithſtanding the Act againſt exporting Corn. The Gentleman bewails the Caſe of the Poor, many of whom, he ſays, are oblig'd to fry Grains for the Subſiſtance of their ſtarving Families, the Conſequences of which he dreads, if ſome timely Remedy be not found out.

Obſ. 'Tis uſual for Men of a covetous Temper, *Roger*, to lay hold of all Opportunities to raiſe Eſtates for themſelves, on the Ruins of the Publick. You know the Scripture condemns Covetouſneſs, and ſtamps it with the Character of Idolatry; and as Idolaters are Enemies to God, we are not to wonder they ſhould be Enemies to Men, who bear his Image. I know 'tis uſual for ſuch kind of People to pretend a mighty Love to God; but St. *John* convicts them of a Lie by this important Queſtion, *viz. How can he that loveth not his Brother whom he hath ſeen, love God whom he hath not ſeen?* Which implies, that Men who have nothing elſe to govern them but Senſe, and do Violence to that, cannot poſſibly have any Love to God, let them pretend what they will; for *he that hath this World's Good, ſeeth his Brother in need, and yet ſhuts up his Bowels of Compaſſion from him, can have nothing of the Love of God dwelling in him*, according to the Determination of that ſame Apoſtle.

Country-m. Indeed, Maſter, I think 'tis very plain, both from Scripture and Reaſon, that covetous Men can neither be good Chriſtians, nor good Subjects; they are ſwallow'd up by Self-Love, and have no Concern for the Publick: But as the Magiſtrates ought not to bear the Sword of God in vain, 'tis their Concern to puniſh ſuch Men, and to make them good Subjects by Force, ſince they cannot be ſo by Inclination.

Obſ. Our Legiſlature is about proper Methods to do it, *Roger*; and I hope theſe Complaints will be a Whet to them: for what with Diſaffection on the one Hand, and Covetouſneſs and a ſelfiſh Temper on the other, we are like to be brought into very dangerous Circumſtances, if our Law-makers don't ſpeedily interpoſe their Authority. Ingroſſers, Foreſtallers, and other ill People, do all they can to bring us into ſuch Tumults and Diſorders as we have an Account from *France* by every Poſt; therefore I doubt not but the Parliament, when they meet, will be ſpeedy in their Proceedings to ſettle the Price of Bread, and in finding out proper Methods to ſet our Poor at Work, becauſe of the Inconveniencies that are otherwiſe like to enſue.

Country-m. There ſeems to be too much Reaſon for it, Maſter. A Gentleman who came from *Northampton* the 2d Inſtant, tells me, That the Farmers in thoſe Parts, finding now, ſince her Majeſty's Proclamation, that they can't deal with Tranters and Ingroſſers of Corn ſo openly as before in the Markets, they have fallen upon a Method of carrying it to them on Pretence of conveying it to diſtant Markets; and one of them lately carry'd eight-Horſe Loads thro' that Town, with their Sacks corded like Salt-mens Packs, and the better to cover the Cheat, cry'd it as Salt; but Capt. *Tom*'s Lady ſuſpecting the Matter, made bold with her Knife to tap a Sack, which, inſtead of Salt, prov'd good old Wheat. This giving an Alarm to the Town, Madam *Tom*'s Siſters came quickly about her, and before the Corn-drivers could reach the Bridge, or the Mace and gilded Staves could come up to their Aſſiſtance, all the Sacks were gutted; and in like Manner they ſerv'd a Waggon-Load of Meal the Week before, which the Tranters were carrying off in hugger-mugger; and the poor People cry'd out they had rather be whipt for ſuch irregular Proceedings, than ſtarve.

Obſ. I am ſorry to hear of ſuch Things, *Roger*, and think the Magiſtrates in thoſe Places much more to blame than the Mob. 'Tis their Duty to obſerve narrowly, eſpecially at ſuch a Time as this, the Practices of Ingroſſers and Foreſtallers, in order to put the Laws in Execution againſt them, otherwiſe they are anſwerable both to God and Man, for the Diſorders which happen by their Neglect. They ſhould have laid thoſe Corn-drivers and Farmers faſt by the Heels, for ſuch a manifeſt Violation of the Law, and have order'd the Goods to be ſold in the open Market at a legal Price: But what can we expect, while we have ſo many Men in the Magiſtracy, who want the Qualifications which the divine Legiſlature requires, *viz.* That they ſhould be Perſons who fear God, and hate Covetouſneſs? But inſtead of that, the Queſtion is now-a-days, of what Faction are they? and accordingly they are recommended to Commiſſions, or elected by the Party, without any Enquiry into their Fitneſs for the Poſts. We have had late Inſtances of that Nature in the Great City. What Tricks, Frauds, and open Bribery, have not been made Uſe of in our Metropolis, to get People into the Magiſtracy, who have given evident Proofs of their being diſaffected to the Government? With what Inſolence do the Faction ſpeak and act at this very Day with Relation to Dr. *Sacheverell*, tho' now under the Cenſure of Parliament for his ſeditious and hair-brain'd Sermons?

Country-m. Why truly, Maſter, 'tis very unaccountable: I am afraid, as I hinted before, there's ſomething more at the Bottom of that Matter, than People are generally aware of. We ſee how induſtrious the Faction is, by their News-Writers, Almanack-makers, and other Libellers, to foment Diſturbances in the Nation. *Parker*, in his ſilly *Ephemeris* for 1710, has theſe malicious Lines in his Obſervations on *March*.

Varlets, remember how your factious Race
*Were juſtly ſcourg'd by * a true Son of Grace.*
May the bold Trunks, wherewith he warm'd St. Paul's,
Live, and be laſting as her ſacred Walls.
Heav'n long preſerve him here, and when he dies,
May the like Phœnix from his Duſt ariſe.

And underneath there's this Note, or Commentary on the ſecond Line, that the Libeller's Meaning may be fully underſtood. * Dr. *Sacheverell*. See his Sermon at St. *Paul's*, *Nov.* 5. 1709.

Obſ.

Obſ. 'Tis Pity, *Roger*, but the Almanack-maker, who has put the Doctor into his Calendar of Saints, ſhould be ſent to bear him Company. We are come to a fine Paſs indeed, when Prognoſticators, hot-headed Pulpiteers, and News-writers, do thus impudently attack the Government, and fly in the Face of the Parliament. I doubt not but our Legiſlature will ſearch to the Bottom of this unuſual Confidence, and make ſome Examples for the Terror of others. 'Tis very hard that while we are engag'd in a bloody and expenſive War againſt the common Enemy Abroad, we ſhould be tore in pieces by a reſtleſs Faction at Home, who do their utmoſt to revive thoſe ſlaviſh Principles that brought us formerly to Popery and Slavery.

Country-m. 'Tis our Advantage, Maſter, that they have diſcover'd themſelves ſo much, eſpecially now when the Parliament is ſitting. I can aſſure you, Maſter, they are ſo far from gaining Proſelytes among my honeſt Country Neighbours, that their Abhorrence of ſuch Principles, is rais'd higher than ever. We look upon the Spreaders of thoſe Maxims, as hypocritical Monſters, who, tho' they run down our happy and free Conſtitution, yet, when they fall into the Hands of Juſtice, endeavour to defend themſelves by thoſe very Liberties of which they would bereave us. We are not to be Tongue-padded out of our *Magna Charta* by ſuch falſe Rhetorick; we love to eat our Beef and Pudding our ſelves, to enjoy our own Wives, to diſpoſe of our Daughters in honeſt Wedlock, and not to have the Meat eat out of our Mouths, and our Wives and Daughters debauch'd by ſtanding Armies and Popiſh Prieſts, under the Notion of confeſſing 'em. We have ſmarted too much already by two Popiſh Succeſſors, and the *Spaniſh* and *French* Modes of Government and Religion, which they introduc'd, to venture upon a third Experiment. We love to have ſuch Worſhip as we underſtand, and can join with, Maſter, to our Edification, and care neither for a *Latin Mumpſimus*, nor Hymns ſung by Organiſts, while a Prebend's Son whiſtles to it on a Flagelet, as was lately practis'd at *Northampton* by Order of a reverend Clergy-man, who was ſo liberal as to give a whole Shilling to the poor *Palatines*; nor do we care for being order'd to ſtand up when we ſing Pſalms, according to the Injunction of the ſame worthy Church-man, leſt they ſhould proceed farther, and order us to dance too. I and my honeſt Neighbours, Maſter, have more Reſpect for the Act of Uniformity, which forbids any other Form, Order, Rites, or Ceremonies, to be openly us'd in any Church, than what is there preſcrib'd. We have no Inclination to countenance any ſuch Power in the high-flying Clergy, becauſe we know not where it will end. I hope, Maſter, our right reverend Dioceſans will enquire into ſuch Practices, and give thoſe Clergy-men due Correction, who endeavour thus to cheat us both of our Religion and civil Liberty.

Obſ. You are very much in the Right, honeſt *Roger*; I perceive every Day brings new Arguments for a Viſitation of our Univerſities and Churches; which I hope thoſe who have Power, will conſider ere it be too late.

Advertiſements.

On Monday next will be publiſh'd,

☞ Prieſtcraft in Perfection, or a Detection of the Fraud of inſerting and continuing this Clauſe (the Church hath Power to decree Rites and Ceremonies, and Authority in Controverſies of Faith) in the 20th Article of the Articles of the Church of England. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Where may be had, The Proceedings of the Lords and Commons in the Year 1628 againſt Roger Manwaring, Doctor in Divinity, (the Sacheverell of thoſe Days) for two ſeditious high-flying Sermons, entitl'd, Religion and Allegiance.

☞ Eliz. Tutchin, Widow of the late John Tutchin, who formerly kept a Boarding-ſchool at Newington-Green and Shacklewell, now keeps a School near the Nags-head at Highgate; where is good Accommodation for Lodgers.

☞ Whereas ſeveral malicious Advertiſements have been lately inſerted in the common News-papers, againſt a Book entitl'd, Merlinus Liberatus, with an Almanack printed by Allowance, for the Year 1710. by J. Partridge; and upon ſtrict Enquiry after the chief Promoter of the ſaid Advertiſement, it appears to be a Perſon of high-flying Principles excited to this Piece of Malice by the following Expreſſions in the ſaid Merlinus Liberatus for the Month of March, viz. 'About the 11th of this Month a conſiderable Officer is preferr'd, and at the ſame Time an exemplary Church-man, but not a S----c-----, nor a Lefly. ☞ Note, the ſaid Merlinus Liberatus, being writ upon Revolution-Principles, with Obſervations upon the Tyrannies of the late Reigns, was printed in October laſt, and is to be ſold by B. Harris in Gracechurch-Street, London, and moſt Bookſellers and Chap-men in City and Country, with the like Freedom and Safety as formerly, notwithſtanding any Advertiſement to the contrary. The Almanack being printed by the Company of Stationers own Allowance.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ A New-Year's Gift for young Houſe-keepers, being a Guide to them in the prudent Management of their Affairs, conſiſting of ſeveral Obſervations relating to the diſcreet and orderly Government of private Families, grounded upon Reaſon, Experience, and the Word of God. ☞ Primitiæ Sacræ, the Reflexions of a devout Solitude; conſiſting of Eſſays, Meditations, and Poems, on ſeveral divine Subjects. By John Diſney, Eſq; The ſecond Edition. Both Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ The Prieſt turn'd Poet, or the beſt way of anſwering Dr. Sacheverell's Sermon, preach'd at St. Paul's, Nov. 5. 1709, before the right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of London, being his Diſcourſe paraphras'd in Burleſque Rhime. ☞ Secret Memoirs and Intrigues of State-Letters during this War, under the Conduct of his Excellency Charles Earl of Peterborough and Monmouth, &c. ☞ Secret Memoirs of the Life of the honourable Sir Cloudſly Shovel, Kt. Admiral of Great Britain, &c. ☞ A Poem humbly inſcrib'd to his Grace the Duke of Marlborough, occaſion'd upon his repeated Victories in Flanders. By W. C. an Officer of Major General How's Regiment. Price 6d. ☞ Scipio Britannicus, the Scourge of France, an heroick Poem, inſcrib'd to the immortal Glory of his Grace, John, Duke of Marlborough, Prince of Mindelheim. Alſo a Latin Poem, annex'd to the Chriſtian Hannibal, the moſt illuſtrious Prince Eugene of Savoy. By T. G. Phyſician in Eſſex. Price 6d. ☞ The ſeditious Inſects, or the Levellers aſſembl'd in Convocation. Price 1s. ☞ The Sotweed Factor, or a Voyage to Maryland. Price 6d. ☞ Poems on ſeveral Occaſions, by Thomas Couch, A.B. Oxon. Price 1s. ☞ The Life and Reign of Peter the IId, late King of Portugal. Price 1s. ☞ The Landlord's Tale, from the twenty eighth Book of Orlando Furioſo. Price 1s. ☞ The Hiſtory of Don Politico Piſcatori, or the political Fiſher-man. Price 6d. ☞ To begin Harveſt three Days too ſoon, rather than two Days too late, or Sentences of the Diſſenters. Price 1s. ☞ The material modern Controverſy about the Soul's Immateriality. Price 6d. ☞ Murder within Doors, or a War among our ſelves. Price 1s. ☞ The Soldiers Directory. Price 1s. ☞ The four Ages of England, or the Iron Age. Price 6d. All ſold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row.

☞ Ruptures and Swellings in the Navel or Groin, in Men, Women, and Children, from their Birth to 60 Years of Age, cur'd; and Truſſes of all Sorts, according to the Nature of the Rupture, made by Andrew Boyd, over againſt the Black-Fryar in Water-Lane, Black-Fryars; where he, and his late Father-in-Law, Mr. Smith, have practis'd above 40 Years, beſides Experience in Scotland; but could never be prevail'd on to publiſh in this Manner 'till now, that ſo many Pretenders ſet up who abuſe Patients, and pretend to make Spring-Truſſes they know nothing of; the ſaid Mr. Smith having taught his Art of curing Ruptures, and making Spring-Truſſes, to none but his ſaid Son-in-Law, Mr. Boyd, who makes thoſe Spring-Truſſes ſo, as they ſuit the Motion of the Body, either riding on Horſe-back, or in a Coach, or at any Manner of Exerciſe, as the Patient pleaſes, who may ſcrew them up more or leſs, by Screws in the Pad, as Occaſion requires; the like of which no Man makes but himſelf.

☞ Mrs. Frances Shaftoe's Narrative, containing an Account of her being in Sir Theophilus Oglethorp's Family, where hearing many treaſonable Things, and among others, that the pretended Prince of Wales was Sir Theophilus's Son, ſhe was trick'd into France by Sir Theophilus's Daughter, and barbarouſly us'd, to make her turn Papiſt and Nun, in order to prevent a Diſcovery, but at laſt made her Eſcape to Swiſſerland, and from thence arriv'd in England in December 1706. Price 6d. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row.

☞ The Virgin unmaſk'd, in ten Female Dialogues betwixt an elderly Maiden Lady, and her Niece, on ſeveral diverting Diſcourſes, on Love, Marriage, Memoirs, and Morals, &c. of the preſent Times. The ſecond Edition, corrected. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row.

☞ Gentlemen, who have any Thing to communicate to the Author of this Paper, are deſir'd to direct it to be left with B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row, for the Obſervator, Poſt pay'd. Where Advertiſements are taken in.

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